

(Confidential)

An Extract from "The Annual Report of the Official Business for the Year 1936" Published on December 1, 1936, by the Bureau of the Europeo-Asiatic Affairs, Foreign Office.

The Progress of the Preliminary Conversations for a Japanese-Dutch Anti-Comintern Pact.

With an aim to conduce to the improvement of the friendly correlations between Japan and the Dutch East Indies, conversations were made in preparation for an anti-Comintern pact between Yamaguchi, Charge d'Affairs of the Japanese Legation at Hague, and the Dutch Foreign Minister. The outline of the progress of the conversations is reported as follows:

The Netherlands possess a vast territory near East Asia. Moreover, the population of the Dutch East Indies includes many Chinese. Such being the reason, the public opinions of the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies have always been much sensitive to the situation of affairs in China, especially to Japan's attitudes towards China. Meanwhile, Japan has been obliged to pay much attention to the trend of the Dutch public opinions.

Charge d'Affairs Yamaguchi, in these connections, gave a full illustration of the present situation of the Sino-Japanese relations on October 12, and expressed Japan's hope that the Dutch Government should be very cautious in leading the public opinions rightly. The Dutch Foreign Minister expressed his appreciation of the Japanese request, and said that the Netherlands would make every possible effort to meet it.

Yamaguchi then turning to the question of the defence against the Comintern activities, pointed out that Japan's present demand towards China was nothing more than a natural result of the Communist menace suffered thoroughly by the Japanese Government, adding that he expected the Dutch Foreign Minister would fully understand it. The Dutch Foreign Minister answered that the existence of strong anti-Bolshevist feelings in the Netherlands was only a matter of common knowledge, which needed no explanation, and revealed that the Dutch Government was still trying hard to suppress the Communist movement, though it was not, at present, so furious as it had been before.

Yamaguchi then mentioned his view that it was considered the wisest way for those nations having common interests in the defence against the Communist assault to act in unanimous co-operation; whereupon the Dutch Foreign Minister inquired of him to what extent the co-operation could be expected to be possible. Yamaguchi, in reply, pointed out the danger that such co-operation might naturally lead up to the support of a political system just opposite to the Communistic, or might interest the participant nations in a political block, and revealed his view that the scope of the co-operation should properly be limited within the counter-propaganda against the Communist campaign and the exchange of informations concerning Communist activities.

The Dutch Foreign Minister seemed to take an active interest in the proposal, saying that it would be favourable if the Netherlands could exchange informations with Japan in connection with the Red movement in the Dutch East Indies at least.

(Yamaguchi 1)

On October 24, twelve days after the previous meeting, Yamaguchi visited the Dutch Foreign Minister to talk over the matter again. The Dutch Foreign Minister apparently had an intention to limit the scope of co-operation solely within the Dutch East Indian affairs. Yamaguchi took the position that the home country of the Netherlands also should be included, and in reply to the Dutch Foreign Minister's inquiry about the ground of his claim, pointed out that there was a powerful propagandic machinery of the Comintern in Amsterdam, which had an important effect on the drift of argument concerning Japan appearing on the Dutch papers, requesting him to think over the matter again.

On the following day, October 25, , the Chief of the Bureau of the East Asiatic Affairs of the Dutch East Indian Government who was just in Hague on furlough, visited Yamaguchi. He revealed to the Japanese Charge d'Affairs the policy of the Dutch East Indian Government to oppress not only the Communist activities but also any other kind of political movement which was considered harmful to the public order in the Dutch colonies and her diplomatic relations with other nations, and suggested to expand the scope of the co-operation so as to include the prohibition of all other kinds of harmful political movement. But, after all, he lodged no objection to the necessity of the exchange of information and opinions regarding the suppression of the Bolshevik movement.

After the proclamation of the Japanese-German Anti-Comintern Pact, however, the Netherlands appeared too much prudent to conclude the pact in question. It was likely that the rumour then abroad of a Japanese-German military alliance against the Soviet Union was partly the reason of her hesitation.

The Chief of the Bureau of the Political Affairs of the Dutch Foreign Office, then, declared to Yamaguchi that the Netherlands had no intention to conclude an anti-Comintern pact, which is prone to develop into some form of political coalition. Yet he expressed, at the same time, the desire on the part of the Netherlands to open the exchange of information as regards individual cases, both in Asia and in Europe, on the principle of reciprocity, between the competent offices of Japan and the Netherlands respectively, through free contact with each other, with the approval of the Dutch East Indian Government. He further emphasized the point that the scope of the co-operation should cover the suppression of those elements who act in defiance of the constitution.

The Japanese Government, with full appreciation of the Netherlands' standpoint, is now watching developments calmly.

(Yamaguchi 2)

C E R T I F I C A T E
S T A T E M E N T O F S O U R C E A N D A U T H E N T I C I T Y

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 5 pages and entitled "Preliminary Interview Concerning an Anti-Comintern Agreement between Japan and Holland, October 12, 1936" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 23rd day of January 1947.

/s/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ Nagaharu Odo

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反執務報告」ヨリ抜萃)

機 密

日蘭防共協定豫備會談

日蘭印間親善關係ヲ側面ヨリ助長スル目的ヲ以テ在
蘭山口代理公使ト和蘭外務大臣トノ間ニ防共協定ニ
關スル會談ヲ行ヒタルヲ其ノ要旨左ノ如シ
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ル説明ヲ加ヘタル後和蘭ハ東亞ニ近ク計大ナル殖民
地ヲ有スルノミナラス蘭印ニハ多量ノ支那人ヲモ包
含シ居ル關係上蘭本國及蘭印ノ兵船ハ支那ノ情勢殊
ニ我方ノ對支態度ニ關シ頗ル敏感ナルヲ常トシ來リ
タル一方石炭輸出ニ對シテハ我方ニ於テ多大ノ注意ヲ
拂ヒ居ル次第モアリ勞比ノ際兵船ノ指導ニ特ニ慎重
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ヲ諒トシ出來得ル限り盡力スヘキ旨應答シメリ續テ
山口ヨリ防共問題ニ言及シ今回又如何ニ對シ要求シ
居ル處ハ東亞ニ於ケル赤化運動ノ脅威ヲ痛切ニ認識
セル帝國政府トシテハ當然ノ團結ニシテ此ノ點ハ外
相ニ於テモ充分諒解セラル、所ナラント述べタルニ
外相ハ蘭本國ニ於ケル反「ボルシェヴィキ」的氣分
ニ付テハ御承知ノ通りニシテ事新シク説明ヲ與セス
又蘭印ニ於ケル赤化運動ノ現状ハ從前程ニハ非ルモ
蘭國政府ニ於テ尙相當其ノ防壓ニ苦心シ居ル旨ヲ澳

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シタルヲ以テ山口ヨリ一旅ニ赤化防遏ニ付利害關係ヲ有スル諸國ヲ共同敵視ノ作威ニ依リ協力スルコト賢策ニ非スヤト思考スル旨ノ見解ヲ説明シタルニ對シ外相ハ實際上如何ナル程度ノ協力可能ナリヤト反問セルニ付山口ハ本協力ノ場合ニハ共產主義ニ對シ對ニ對立スル政治組織ヲ支持スル諸國ノ政治因「ゾロジク」ニ引キ入レラル、結果トナリ又ハ此ノ範圍象ヲ與ヘ易キ危險アリ此ノ點ハ特ニ警戒ヲ要スル所ニシテ結局本協力ノ範圍ハ實際上ハ「コミンテルン」ノ宣傳ニ對スル反對宣傳並ニ赤化運動ニ關スル情報ノ宣傳ニ止ルニ非スヤト考ヘ居レル旨ヲ語リタルニ對シ交換ニ於ケル本問題ニ關シテモ日本ト相ハ蘭印ニ對シ得ルコトヲ得ハ益々好都合ナリト頗ル豪氣ヲ示シタリ

越ヘテ二十四日山口ハ再び外相ヲ往訪シ本問題ニ言及セル處外相ハ本付協力ノ範圍ヲ寧ラ蘭印ニ限ラシトスルヤノ意圖ヲ有セルヤニ見受ケラレタルヲ以テ山口ハ右範圍ハ和蘭本國ヲモ包含スヘキモノナリヤト應酬セルニ外相ハ其ノ理由ヲ質セルニ付山口ハ御承知ノ通り「アムステルダム」ニハ「コミンテルン」ノ有力ナル宣傳機關アリテ和蘭ノ諸新聞ノ近日論評ハ少カラス其ノ形勢ヲ受ケ居ルヤニ見受ケラル、以テ以テ説明シ我々意圖ニ對シ考慮ヲ求メ置キタリ

次テ二十五日當時休戰條約中ノ蘭印政廳東亞局長「

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ロービングー山口ヲ來訪シ蘭印當局トシテハ一面共
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、總テノ政治運動ハ同様彈壓スル方針ナルヲ以テ今
次協力ノ範圍ヲ更ニ他ノ政治運動ノ禁遏ニモ擴張シ
展意嚮アル旨ヲ仄シタルモ結局赤化彈壓ニ關シ彼我
意見及情報交換ノ必要ニ付テハ異存ナキ態度ヲ示シ
タリ

然ルニ日獨防共協定ノ公表セラル、ヤ號稱日獨
事同盟說ノ流布セラレタル關係モアリ小國和蘭トシ
テハ此際本件協定締結方ヲ躊躇シ來リタルヤノ電ヲ
リ外務政務局長ハ山口ニ對シ防共協定ハ政治的性質
ヲ帶ヒ易キヲ以テ和蘭トシテハカカル協定ヲ締結ス
ル意嚮ナキモ蘭印側ノ同意アリ次第個々ノ場合ニ付
日蘭兩國ノ當該行政機關ノ間ニ於テ自由ナル接觸ニ
依リ相互主義ノ下ニ亞細亞及歐洲ノ兩方面ニ亘リ情
報ノ交換ヲ行ヒ度旨並ニ協力ノ範圍ヲ朝寇素亂分子
ニモ擴張シ度旨ヲ強調シタリ

帝國政府トシテハ右和蘭側ノ態度ヲ觀察シタル上目
下暫ク成行ヲ靜觀スルノ態度ヲ持シ居レリ